

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~T~~ampon, in particular for feminine hygiene, comprising a tampon body and a withdrawal tape which is fastened on the tampon body and is configured such that the withdrawal tape has an effective length that can be changed before or during use, wherein ~~the withdrawal tape is formed with at least one loop that reduces the effective length of the withdrawal tape and can be released in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape and~~ the withdrawal tape has a first end connected to the tampon body and a second end having a knot, a loop and a free end extending from the knot ~~and the loop can be released by pulling the free end,~~ wherein said loop reduces the effective length of the withdrawal tape and can be released by pulling the free end in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~T~~ampon according to Claim 1, wherein the loop is formed such that it does not release by virtue of the loop being pulled.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~T~~ampon according to Claim 1, wherein the loop is formed in the manner of a half-loop.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~T~~ampon according to Claim 1, wherein the loop is formed in the manner of a ~~Windsor knot~~ a second knot.
7. (Currently Amended) A ~~T~~ampon, in particular for feminine hygiene, comprising a tampon body and a withdrawal tape which is fastened on the tampon body-and is configured such that the withdrawal tape has an effective length that can be

changed before or during use, wherein the withdrawal tape is formed with at least one fold that reduces the effective length of the withdrawal tape and can be released in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape and the withdrawal tape is arranged at least partly within the tampon body and is positioned with the at least one fold therein, and a the portion of the withdrawal tape having the at least one fold is retained between adjacent portions of the tampon body.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~T~~ampon according to Claim 7, wherein the tampon body is rolled and pressed to retain the portion of the withdrawal tape having the at least one fold.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~T~~ampon according to Claim 7 wherein the at least one fold of ~~the~~ said withdrawal tape arranged at least partly within the tampon body is releasable by pulling the free end of the withdrawal tape in order to increase the effective length of the withdrawal tape outside the tampon.
10. (Currently Amended) A ~~M~~ethod of producing a tampon comprising a tampon body and a withdrawal tape, said method comprising the steps of: positioning the withdrawal tape around a fibrous tampon web such that the withdrawal tape extends transversely to and laterally beyond the fibrous tampon web; rolling and pressing the fibrous tampon web to form the tampon body with the withdrawal tape fastened therein; and knotting the withdrawal tape outside the tampon body ~~to~~ form a releasable loop.
11. (Currently Amended) A ~~M~~ethod of producing a tampon comprising the steps of: positioning the withdrawal tape ~~is positioned~~ around a fibrous tampon web such

that the withdrawal tape extends transversely to the fibrous tampon web and a portion of the withdrawal tape extends laterally beyond the fibrous tampon web; and folding the portion of the withdrawal tape that extends beyond the fibrous tampon web partly onto the; rolling and pressing the fibrous tampon web to form a tampon body with the withdrawal tape fastened therein and to retain the folded portion of the withdrawal tape in the tampon.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~method according to Claim 11, wherein the withdrawal tape is folded onto the fibrous tampon web in a direction selected from the group consisting of parallel to, obliquely in relation to, or perpendicularly to the transverse direction of the fibrous tampon web.